

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A method of measuring the extent of resources ~~or benefit~~ provided by a second user to a first user in a distributed network, said method comprising the steps of:
 - associating a first trusted entity with the first user;
 - associating a second trusted entity with the second user;
 - receiving, from the first trusted entity, information about an intended resource use;
 - providing a ticket, from a server to the first trusted entity, wherein said ticket includes at least portion of said information;
 - transmitting said ticket from the first trusted entity to the second trusted entity;
 - having the second trusted entity modify the ticket;
 - transmitting said modified ticket to the first trusted entity;
 - having the first trusted entity send the ticket to the server; and
 - utilizing said ticket and said modified ticket to determine the extent of ~~benefit or~~resources provided by the second user to the first user.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~benefit or~~ resources provided by the second user include at least one of provision of a file, provision of bandwidth, provision of CPU cycles, or provision of disk or memory storage.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ticket issued by the server comprises at least one of a machine identification field, a field for a file name, a field for a hash of a file, a field for a randomly generated number, a weighting field, a time field, a value field, or a date field.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the server stores a copy of said ticket.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the second trusted entity validates the ticket by checking for a signature from the server.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of having the first trusted entity validate the ticket.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of having the server authenticate the identity of the first trusted entity prior to, or subsequent to, issuing said ticket.
8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first trusted entity is a module incorporating authentication, encryption or data signing capabilities in data communication with a computing device.
9. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the first trusted entity comprises a receipt request generator, receipt generator module, and receipt validation module.
10. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of having the server conduct a redundancy check prior to, or subsequent to, issuing the ticket.
11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of conducting the redundancy check is achieved by determining whether a file being accessed by the first user has not already been downloaded.
12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of having the second trusted entity modify the ticket comprises at least signing or authenticating the ticket.
13. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of having the first trusted entity validate said signed ticket.
14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of having the second trusted entity modify the ticket comprises adding details of the extent of resources shared by the second user.

15. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of having the first trusted entity organize a plurality of tickets into a record and communicating said record to the server.
16. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of determining, from said record, the extent of resources provided by a plurality of second users to a plurality of first users and modifying a database to record the extent of resources provided by said plurality of second users to said plurality of first users.
17. (withdrawn)
18. (withdrawn)
19. (original) A system for measuring the extent of resources provided by a second user to a first user in a distributed network, comprising:
 - a first trusted entity in data communication with a computing device used by a first user;
 - a second trusted entity in data communication with a computing device used by a second user;
 - a server in data communication with each of said first and second trusted entities wherein said server is capable of generating a ticket comprising at least one of a randomly generated number field, a computing device identifier field, a date field and a time field, a value field, and a signature field.
20. (withdrawn)
21. (withdrawn)
22. (withdrawn)

23. (withdrawn)

24. (withdrawn)

25. (withdrawn)

26. (withdrawn)

27. (withdrawn)

28. (withdrawn)

29. (withdrawn)

30. (withdrawn)

31. (withdrawn)

32. (withdrawn)

33. (withdrawn)

34. (withdrawn)

35. (withdrawn)

36. (withdrawn)

37. (withdrawn)